

AGENDA TITLE: Communications (October 15, 1992 through October 28, 1992)

MEETING DATE: November 4, 1992

PREPARED BY: City Clerk

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

AGENDA ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive letter from Thomas C. Hoffman expressing concerns regarding items sold by out-of-town vendors along the Grape and Wine Festival parade route and take action as deemed necessary.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The following communication was received between the dates of October 15, 1992 and October 28, 1992.

Attached, marked Exhibit "A", is a letter received from Thomas C. Hoffman expressing his concern regarding items sold by out-of-town vendors along the Grape and Wine Festival parade route which are being thrown at parade participants.

Mr. Hoffman indicates he will be in attendance at the November 4, 1992 City Council meeting to address the City Council regarding his concerns.

FUNDING: None required.

  
Alice M. Reinche  
City Clerk

AMR/jmp

COUNCOM8/TXTA.02J/COUNCOM

APPROVED

THOMAS A. PETERSON  
City Manager



October 16, 1992

Lodi City Council  
Attention: Alice Reimche  
P.O. Box 3006  
Lodi, CA 95241-1910

Dear Mrs. Reimche,

As a participant in the 1992 Grape Festival parade, I would like to address the City Council during the meeting scheduled for November 4, 1992. My concern deals with two items sold by out-of-town vendor along the parade route, and I am asking the Council to consider restricting their sale during this event.

These items, one being small, explosive, but harmless caps, detonate by throwing against a hard surface, the other a spray foam which is projected from an aerosol can in the form of string, are purchased by the parade spectators as a source of amusement. Unfortunately, the parade's participants soon become targets.

As I marched along the parade route with my troop of Boy Scouts, I was continually bombarded by the caps, thrown not only at my feet but at my body as well. I could see the squad of pom-pom girls immediately ahead of us were having a similar experience, and my imagination led me to wonder what the poor tuba players in the high school bands must have been going through.

The bottom line is, for myself at least, instead of having a positive experience, marching in the parade was a humiliating and degrading one. I do not enjoy being the target of thrown objects. It is an act of disrespect, void of all consideration and decency. And if I feel this way, I am certain there are many others who feel the same.

I have discussed this problem with the manager of the Grape Festival and have addressed my concerns to the Parade Committee. All of those involved with the Festival empathize with me. In fact, Graeme Stewart cited instances in which he too was the target of thrown caps while leading the parade in the Grand Marshall's car. Unfortunately, Mr. Stewart and the Committee claim to have no jurisdiction over any sale, except when the sale takes place on Festival premises. It was explained to me that if the vendors comply with City regulations by securing a sales license, there is, in fact, very little anyone can do to

resolve the situation. It is my feeling, however, that unless the sale of these items is restricted, participation in the parade will dwindle, and the quality of this long-standing tradition will deteriorate.

Mrs. Reimche, it is my desire to bring this matter to the attention of the City Council. Kindly place the subject of restrictive sales permits for vendors during the parade on the Council agenda for the evening of November fourth. I plan to be in attendance and anticipate the opportunity to discuss my concerns with the Council members.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas C. Hoffman', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Thomas C. Hoffman

cc: G. Stewart  
R. Ramsey